

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-36 and 42 are pending. Claims 37-41, 43, and 44 have been cancelled without prejudice as drawn to non-elected subject matter. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute non-elected subject matter in one or more divisional applications. Claim 24 has been amended. Support for the recitation "produced by the method of" of claim 24 can be found throughout the specification, *inter alia*, at page 5, paragraph 4, lines 26-31. No new matter has been added.

In compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.823(a), the paper copy of the Substitute Sequence Listing for the above-identified application is, by this amendment, added after the last page of the application. No new subject matter is introduced as support is found in the application as filed, *inter alia*, at page 32, TABLE I.

Objections to the Specification

The disclosure is objected to because TABLE I, page 32, which contains sequence disclosures fails to include SEQ ID numbers for all of the sequences contained therein.

Applicants have amended the Sequence Listing to include all the sequences contained in TABLE I and have amended TABLE I to include the corresponding SEQ ID numbers.

In view of the above amendments, the objections are overcome and should be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 24-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

According to the Examiner, the phrase "as defined in claim 1" is confusing as claim 1 is drawn to a method, not to a protease.

In accordance with the Examiner's suggestion and to more clearly recite that which Applicants regard as the invention, Applicants have amended claim 24 (and claims 25-36 dependent thereon) to recite "produced by the method of".

In view of the above amendment, Applicants submit that the rejection under Section 112 has been overcome and must be withdrawn.

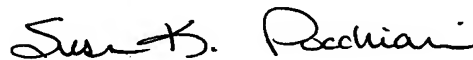
Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge allowance of claims 1-23 and 42. In addition, Applicants submit that in view of the above amendment to claim 24 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, claims 24-36 are allowable.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the objections and the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§112 have been overcome and must be withdrawn. Further Applicants submit that the application is now in form for issuance and an early allowance is earnestly requested. If any issues remain, the Examiner is invited to telephone the Attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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